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Consumption," "The Higher Mental Life," "Liberty," "Brotherhood," "Parenthood," "Education," "Sex," "Eternal Life." The book is not one for technical study in any line, but would be in place in the library and in the mind of the best educated and those most acquainted with all phases of human interest.

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REPORTS OF THE FEDERAL COUNCIL

These volumes¹ constitute the official report of the Third Quadrennial Meeting of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, held in the Second Baptist Church, St. Louis, Missouri, December 6-11, 1916. Volume I contains the official record of the council, together with the administrative reports and other matter confined to the administration of the council. The other volumes contain the reports of the commissions connected with the council. The editor-in-chief is Rev. Charles S. Macfarland, general secretary of the Federal Council, with the co-operation of the secretaries of commissions, notably of Rev. Sidney L. Gulick, formerly a missionary to Japan, now associate secretary of the Council.

As a record of proceedings the volumes are cumbered with much matter which is of little interest to the ordinary reader, or even to the student of social and ecclesiastical movements. The statesman, and the Christian of world-vision, will turn to Volumes II and III, which contain the report of the Commission on Peace and Arbitration, with an account of practically all peace movements, both national and international, and to Volume IV, which gives the report of the Commission on Relations with Japan. Volume V, entitled "Christian Co-operation and World Redemption," carries the largest measure of value to the ordinary Christian worker and the church, discussing, as it does, through the reports of the commissions, evangelism, social service, family life, temperance, Sunday observance, negro churches, country life, state and local federations, federated movements, home missions, and foreign missions.

The substance of these volumes is a fivefold testimony: (1) that there is a movement in nearly all communions, respectable and weighty, which,

¹ *The Library of Christian Co-operation.* In 6 volumes. Published for the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America. New York: Missionary Education Movement, 1917.

respecting the integrity of each single denomination, seeks to combine them, not in declarations of faith and doctrine, not in forms and arrays of organization, nor by an exchange of members, resources, or territories, in any kind of interdenominational communism, but by the simple process of doing those things which they all do, at the same time and together—the process of concentrating, synchronizing, and co-operating in common tasks; (2) that, in nearly all communions, there is a positive tendency for the church to minister to mankind in terms of social service, not merely contenting herself with a preaching in spoken words, but with a sacrificial message of deeds; (3) that the church is awakening to the needs of the countryside and the rural district, with concern for isolation and economic need, and is seeking to show herself an agency of salvation for all human interests; (4) that the function of preaching, in terms of a revised and modernized evangelism, is receiving new emphasis; and (5) that emphatically the church has a message and a mission for world-conditions and must help men and nations to find the Christian basis for peace and good will.

ALFRED WILLIAMS ANTHONY

LEWISTON, MAINE

THE MEANING OF HISTORY¹

The author at the outset puts to actual history this question as to human life viewed in the large: "Has it within itself spiritual forces that result in a spiritual tendency?" (p. 5). The book is an argument in answer to this question.

The author passes in rapid, though by no means superficial, survey some of the typical interpretations of history. He touches first on two somewhat antiquated theories—the view which regards history as mere "dust-storms of facts" and the theological theory of "divine interposition and direction through miracles." A more serious treatment is given to theories which are live issues today. Among these are the geographic, which emphasizes "the operations of mountain ranges and plains, rivers and seas, tillable soil and desert." This theory shows the influence of nature on the genesis of history, but fails to take due account of the human element. Even more in evidence today is the economic interpretation. "The key to history is asserted to be man's economic

¹ *The Spiritual Interpretation of History*. By Shailer Mathews. [The William Belden Noble Lectures.] Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1916. 227 pages. \$1.50.